> "WORK TAKES NEW MEANING WHEN YOU FEEL YOU ARE POINTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. OTHERWISE, IT'S JUST A JOB, AND LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR THAT."
>
> - Tim Cook, CEO of Apple

DID YOU KNOW?

About Busy on Busy? Microsoft Teams keeps rolling out new features. Now it's allowing you to decide how calls are handled when you're already on a call or in a meeting. 'Busy on Busy' lets you choose to either use a busy signal, redirect calls, or let them come through anyway. It was previously available only to admins, but now everyone can use it.

WELCOME TO THE METAVERSE

How is it going to change business?

Have you heard the term metaverse yet? According to Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple, "Life without AR will soon be unthinkable." Whether this is a long or short term predication, being aware of the metaverse will at least have you prepared to move into the next generation of business leveraging the Internet.

The digital space that is the metaverse is a generalised term given to the 3D world that is growing and seeing large scale investment.

So why are we seeing companies investing in digital real estate, advertising, and interacting with their clients in the AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality) world? Simply, it's because they don't want to miss out on the predicted boom that will change the face of business, Internet usage and our general lives.

While the concept of 3D immersive worlds has been around for a long time, the advances being made in the necessary technologies are growing and gathering significant pace. Due to the increase in processing power, Internet connectivity, and 3D that works on a range of devices, the metaverse is evolving into a completely different beast.

Recently, Microsoft announced a partnership with Meta, which will bring 365 apps to the party and enable a whole new way to collaborate. Taking a peak into the future, Microsoft notes that 50% of Gen Z and Millennials expect to do some of their work in the metaverse in the next 2 years.

For now, we are not at a stage where we have significant and broad uptake into the 3D world for businesses of all sizes, but in the years to come expect it to be a world where many companies:

Advertise: When the internet was first introduced, companies didn't immediately realise its potential. Now most companies wouldn't consider operating without a digital presence.

Deliver Service to Clients: 79% of consumers expect companies to respond to social media messages and they expect that within a day. The metaverse may well be the next generation of client interactions.

Employee Training: Enabling more immersive training, this can be a game changer for everyone from doctors to forklift operators.

How the next few years pans out for the 3D world is one to keep an eye on, and not just for gamers.

TECH NEWS

As Denmark moves towards being a cashless society, it reported no bank robberies at all in 2022. That's the first time ever.

Instead, criminals are turning to online banking fraud and other cyber crimes. There has been a surge in APP (bank transfer) fraud around the world. Criminals are tricking businesses and consumers into authorising payments using fake websites and emails. This affects businesses everywhere. Warn your teams to be cautious of payment requests, and don't forget to keep your cyber security training up to date.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LOOP EARPLUGS

Whether you work from a busy office, in a coffee shop, or from the comfort of your own home, it's likely that your environment can be distracting at times.

These Loop earplugs can help. There are options that allow you to reduce most of the noise around you, or filter sounds across all frequencies and reduce the volume.
They don't look too bad either...well, for earplugs.

Visit link.starstreamdata.com/loop-earplugs to learn more

Q & A

Q: My employees want fewer video meetings, should we cut down?

A: Yes, if you can condense or combine them. Follow in the footsteps of big tech companies like Shopify and reduce the number of big meetings you hold. Your people will be happier, and you'll likely save a lot of time.

Q: Should my business upgrade to Windows 11?

A: In short, yes. It's not urgent but Windows 10 will no longer be receiving new features and updates. The expected end of support date for Windows 10 is 14th October 2025.

Q: I know I need a password manager, but which is best?

A: Good question...and there are lots of options. Different businesses have different requirements, so it really all depends on you. We'd be happy to make a recommendation once we understand your needs. Get in touch.

MONTHLY TECH FACTS

- The number of smart devices collecting, analysing, and sharing data should hit 50 billion by 2030.

- There were 5.32 billion mobile phones in use worldwide in 2022 (up by 1.8% since 2021).

- Every single second, Google gets 100,000 searches. That's 1.2 trillion searches in 2022 alone.

NEW TO MICROSOFT 365

Automate tasks in Excel, a feature Excel lovers have been waiting for.

The Automate tab was previously only available in the web version, but now it's arrived in the desktop app for Windows and Mac.
The tool allows you to create and modify scripts to automate repetitive tasks.

QUIZ TIME

1. What was the name of the first internet search engine?

A. Archie
B. Ask Jeeves
C. Google

2. Which programming language shares its name with a snake?

A. Cobra
B. Python
C. Kaa

3. 1024 bits is equal to how many bytes?

A. 8
B. 128
C. 256

4. Which company introduced the hard disk in 1956?

A. HP
B. IBM
C. Microsoft

5. Which two numbers form the basis of the Binary system?

A. One and Zero
B. One and Two
C. One and Ten

Answers on the final page

TEAM BUILDING

Do You Encourage Input From Your Team?

Business owners spend a lot of time thinking about what the future of their business looks like, how to navigate the next phase of development and perhaps now post-COVID and economic instability, even more so.

With so many experts out there ready to give their opinion on what you should be doing, there is certainly a breadth of knowledge available. However, some very contrasting opinions are being broadcast, so where do you look for that source of wisdom and inspiration?

Have you considered speaking to your team, the people in and around your business and who are on the front line and engaging with your clients?

Do you actively seek improvement of business processes and take feedback in from those who experience day to day life working within your business operating system?

Many businesses had to go through rapid change to adapt and survive the challenges of COVID so how are they serving you now? Has your working practices changed to allow remote or hybrid working? Are you demanding people return to the office full time? How about pioneering a 4 day working week?

Your people are at the heart of the business and providing the right working environment is key to building a productive, profitable and thriving culture.

We are seeing a push from employees for more flexibility and greater autonomy. This can lead to business challenges, changes in processes and people management but how much of that is a resistance to change or lack of trust?

Talking to your staff will help you understand how the business can change and develop over the coming years. One key part of this communication is that it can help you retain and acquire top talent.

The technology that you use plays a huge role in all of this.

From the collaboration tools that help the team stay connected to the system you use to operate and automate tasks, these boost overall productivity, which in turn can increase employee satisfaction.

Giving your team the opportunity to let you know their annoyances in a safe and healthy way can help develop your company and skyrocket your growth. Afterall, working in a way that doesn't drain the energy from your team can only be a good thing for long term health and performance.

So, speak to your team and do it in an organised way. Don't fall into the trap of too many meetings...it's the biggest complaint of employees!

Want some inspiration for running a productive team meeting?
Visit link.starstreamdata.com/productive-team-meeting for a guide and worksheet.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1.   A.   ARCHIE
2.   B.   PYTHON
3.   B.   128
4.   B.   IBM
5.   A.   ONE AND ZERO

GET IN TOUCH

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